

# St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School

We give thanks to God, work together and always try our best

St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School  
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Newsletter no 2 Spring Term

Acting Headteacher: E. Shaughnessy

26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## Upcoming Diary Dates

\*School Nurse

Vision Screening –  
Reception class  
01.02.2024

NSPCC Number Day  
02.02.24 (all  
classes to do  
activities in school)

ISLAM week  
05.02.24

NSPCC workshops  
Y2, Y4, Y6  
rescheduled

Safer Internet Day  
06.02.2024 –  
Assembly in school

Year 3 and Year 4  
Celebration of the  
Word 09.02.24  
**(Parents  
Welcome)**

School closes  
3.30pm 12.02.2024

School re-opens  
19.02.2024

\*School  
photographer in  
school 01.03.2024

\*new dates

## Acting Headteacher's Message

It is hard to believe that it is mid-January and that this is the end of my third week here at St. Gregory's. I have to say it is an absolute pleasure to lead such a wonderful school. I am sure you are delighted with the wonderful comments in the Ofsted report that was shared with you last week. The staff here are all so caring and have shown that they have the best interests at heart for all of your children. The children at St. Gregory's are absolutely delightful, they are very polite, well-mannered and are fully engaged in all that school has to offer them. I have enjoyed seeing them learning in many fun and exciting lessons! Year 3 enjoyed making fruit crumble during Design and Technology, Year 1 have been showing me how fantastic they are in maths recalling 'numberbonds' and Year 5 and 6 have impressed me with their leadership skills organising the 'Huff and Puff' games and activities during playtime! It has been wonderful to speak to so many parents and grandparents on the playground each day.

## Sad News Announcement



*Mrs Coates, a retired teacher of St. Gregory's has sadly passed away after a long battle with cancer. Susan was a beloved teacher, dedicating many years to enriching the lives of children, parents and colleagues at St. Gregory's. Her commitment to providing a fun, inclusive and nurturing education experience made her a favourite teacher for many. Please keep Mrs. Coates' family and friends in your prayers at this sad time.*

### EYFS and Key Stage 1 Celebration of the Word

It was wonderful to see so many parents, carers and grandparents attend the EYFS and Key Stage 1 Celebration of the Word this morning. The children read and sang beautifully and prayed with such reverence. The theme was 'community' and it was palpable that parents are also part of the St. Gregory's community too. You must be so PROUD!



### Year 6 SATS Parent Meeting

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our SATs information meeting. It was wonderful to see so many parents attend. The PowerPoint is now available on our school website for those parents and carers who could not attend. A huge thank you to Miss Rowe who led the session! If you have any questions, do not hesitate to speak to the Year 6 team and they will be happy to answer them.

### National Handwriting Day

On Tuesday we celebrated 'National Handwriting Day'. All pupils wrote a postcard to me in their neatest handwriting. It was so tough as the standards were so high. The winners were presented special awards in Celebration Assembly- these awards were for 'presentation' and 'trying their best' which is part of our school mission statement! Look out for the winners on the school Facebook page.

### Professional photographer in school-smile!

Professional class and individual school photographs will be taken on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 (more info to follow).

### First Holy Communion –Year 4 Parents

If you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion, please contact Fr. Keith Walker, Parish Priest at St. Gregory's for more information. Mrs Blackwood is a Catechist leading the First Holy Communion sessions and will share key dates and more information once numbers are confirmed. If you require more information, please contact her via the school office.

### Bikes and Scooters

Some of our pupils are riding and scooting on the school grounds on a morning and after school. I would like to remind you that, for the safety and wellbeing of our staff, pupils, parents and visitors please remind your child to dismount and walk with their bike or scooter whilst on the school site.

### Attendance Matters!

Currently we have a small number of children whose attendance is below 96% which is obviously a concern. Please do not be offended if you receive letters from us, it is our duty to track attendance and keep you informed. It is considered that attendance of 92% or below is persistent absence which will be closely monitored by school staff. Likewise, it is really important that we work together to ensure the children arrive to school on time – please do remember arriving late is unsettling for the children and learning does start the minute the children walk through the door. First lesson of the day is either Phonics, maths or English so regularly arriving late means that your child is missing out on vital education. The equivalent of being 10 minutes late every day, equals 7 whole days over a year. Every second counts!

**Well done to 'Reception Class' who won the Attendance Award this week with 98.47%**

### Wrap Around Provision-Breakfast and Teatime Club

Please ensure you book your child into Breakfast Club at least 24 hours before and Teatime Club at least 48 hours before to ensure we have adequate staffing arrangement and enough resources. Unfortunately, emails are not picked up during the school day as the staff have other duties to attend. Please note that bookings can only be made at late notice in the event of an **emergency only** and you must call the school office.

Have a wonderful weekend!

*Miss E. Shaughnessy*

### Attendance Flag

Attendance Flag	Information
Red – Under 92%	<p>Pupils in the red zone are more likely to underachieve, find making friendships difficult and often exhibit poor behaviour. Pupils with this level of absence have large gaps in their learning and struggle to make expected progress despite support.</p> <p>Legal action may also be taken against Parents/Carers of red zone pupils.</p>
Amber – 92-96.99%	<p>Pupils in the amber zone are still at risk of underachieving due to the absence level. Pupils who miss school regularly are more likely to suffer from school related stress.</p> <p>Pupils in this zone have gaps in their learning which put additional pressures on children and parents to fill those gaps with the support of the school.</p> <p>If your child is in the amber zone we will contact you to complete a suitable action/intervention plan to help avoid attendance falling into the red zone.</p>
Green – 97+%	<p>We expect pupils to have green attendance throughout their education. Those in the green zone have minimal learning gaps which are addressed within the school day. This means that they are more likely to do well in examinations, achieve their full potential, have better job opportunities, develop good mental health and can develop strong friendships within school.</p>

### Safeguarding Details

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Miss Shaughnessy and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Blackwood. Mrs Squares is the Assistant Designated Safeguarding Lead.